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AUTHOR	Johnson, Thomas A.
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ABSTRACT

The story of the Houston (Texas) Police Department is a study of times and changes in the fourth largest city in the United States. This history of the Houston Police Department (HPD) examines the Department's beginnings in 1837. The HPD hired its first black officers in 1873. The Department purchased its first patrol car in 1910. In 1930 the first in-service police school was established and offered courses for detectives and uniformed officers. The HPD established the first police academy class in 1939. The training was five weeks in length and the instruction covered various phases of police work. Highlights of the Department's history include a graphical time line of significant events (1837 -- 1999) and detailed lists of activities by decade. (Author/BT)

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Abstract

The story of the Houston Police Department is an interesting study of the times and changes in the fourth largest city in America. The history of the Houston Police Department provides a broad scope of the evolution of one of the most progressive leaders in law enforcement as well as training, education, and technology in the country. The narration of the material is broken down by decades and concludes with a graphical time line of significant events.

A History of the Houston Police Department

Thomas A. Johnson, Ed.D.

1836-1899

Led by General Sam Houston on April 21, 1836, Texas won its independence from Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto. Several months later, two brothers from New York, Augustus C. and John K. Allen, purchased land located on the banks of Buffalo Bayou. It was here that the City of Houston was established. The City was named for the hero of the Battle of San Jacinto, Sam Houston, and became the temporary center of the government of the Republic of Texas.

The new Texas Congress soon passed an act to incorporate the City of Houston and President Sam Houston approved it on June 5, 1837. That same year, Houston elected G.W. Holland to the position of Constable, thereby making him the City's first law enforcement official. However, it would be four more years before the Office of the City Marshal would be staffed to serve as the official policing agency for the City of Houston. The newly formed police force was placed under the direction of the first City Marshal, Daniel Busley, in 1841.

Over the next twenty years the City would see 12 more City Marshals rise to take the helm of the police force. During these years leading up to the Civil War, there was little patrolling of the town, with no protection at night except what was offered by the private guards under the hire of local businessmen to protect their establishments.

After the Civil War, Marshal Isaac C. Lord began the process for professional reform of the City Marshal's Office. He proposed a set of hiring requirements and rules to govern the conduct of the police force to the City Council. Those recommendations were incorporated into the City Charter of 1866 (Art. 308-344). Marshal Lord also was successful in having the City Council adopt the first official police uniform. "The dress of the members of the police force shall be navy blue, indigo die and all wool" (Art 333, 1866).

In 1873, during Reconstruction, Brevet Major General J. J. Reynolds appointed R. Van Patton as City Marshal. It was while R. Van Patton was Marshal that the Houston police force hired its first black officers. At that time, there was an even number of blacks and whites on the police force, six each. The six black officers included Second-in-Command Deputy Marshal E.H. Williams and six white officers. It was also under Van Patton that the first "Manual of the Houston Police Force" was written in this year. The salary then was set at $60 per month, where it would stay until 1915.

In 1894 the police force hired its first two police detectives and the city purchased a patrol wagon at a cost of $450. The term "wagon call" is still used today in reference to transporting prisoners.

1900-1909

In 1900, the position of City Marshal was changed to Chief of Police, however it remained an elected position. J.G. Blackburn was re-elected, making him the last City Marshal and the first Chief of Police for the City of Houston. It was at this time that the police force hired its first female matron, and officially changed its name to the Houston Police Department.

The population of the City of Houston had by now increased to approximately 45,000. A uniform patrolman's salary was still set at $60 per month and had not been increased for decades. Normal duty hours consisted of 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, with one day off per month authorized. There were no pension or overtime benefits in place, and officers were not paid for missed work due to sickness.

Other interesting facts from this timeframe include:

- 1902 The first true identification program was established in HPD.
- 1903 A revised city charter amendment empowered the City Council to create a civil service commission to enforce regulations enacted by Council.
- 1907 The city directory listed 68 police officers and one female matron.
- 1907 All automobiles were required to yield the right of way to horses.
- 1908 There were approximately 80 automobiles in Houston.
- 1909 The first police motorcycle was purchased by the Department; Officer D.W. Robinson became the first motorcycle officer.

1910-1919

August 23, 1910 marked the end of one era and the beginning of another as reported in the Houston Post. The headlines read "George Ellis resigns as Police Chief; Ray Probable Successor." After Chief Ellis' resignation, Mayor Rice immediately named Assistant Chief James M. Ray as Acting Chief, and it was understood that he would become Chief Ellis' successor. This was significant because it was the first time in the history of the City that the Chief of Police was appointed by the Mayor.

Also in 1910, the highest-ranking Houston police officer was killed in the line of duty. Earl McFarland, a former police officer who had been fired, killed Deputy Chief William Murphy. Since there had been no eyewitness that could discredit McFarland's self-defense claim, McFarland was found not guilty.

The year 1910 was also noteworthy as the year the Department purchased its first police car. Traffic had become dense in the downtown area due to the large number of horses, motorcycles, automobiles, and streetcars in Houston. This resulted in the formation of the first traffic squad within the City, with officers mounted on both horses and motorcycles. Their primary function was to slow down speeders.

In 1911, the arrival and installation of the Gamewell Signally System made it the first in-house communication system within the Department. This system consisted of a telephone "call box" that connected officers assigned to stand at street intersections and to direct traffic.

The year 1915 saw police officers realize their first pay raise since 1873, with an increase of 15, from $60 to $65 per month. The police workday was also shortened from 12 to 8 hours a day, beginning the three-shift system in the Houston Police Department.

When America entered World War I in 1917, Houston was host to two training camps: Ellington Field for bomber cadets and Camp Logan, an Army training center. While Camp Logan was being constructed, where Memorial Park is today, a black unit from the north was stationed. These northern troops resented the separate drinking receptacles for workers at the camp, the segregation in town and the interference of local police. With conditions ripe, it was not long before a riot occurred. After an altercation and subsequent arrest of a black soldier who was interfering with the arrest of a black woman, tensions heightened and rumor spread. A subsequent clash between the black troops and the Houston Police led to the deaths of 16 whites, including five police officers, along with several black soldiers, two white soldiers, and one hispanic soldier before Mayor Moody requested federal troops under martial law to end this confrontation.

In 1918, the Houston Police Department hired Eva Jane Bacher as its first policewoman. Later, in 1921, Mrs. Bacher worked in the Public Morale and Safety squad, the forerunner of the Vice Division. Since the detectives in the squad (including Mrs. Bacher) received $5 more per month than patrol officers, she was arguably the first female detective in the police Department.

1920-1929

Sometime prior to 1920, the Department had established an applicant examination, however this date, and other facts and circumstances surrounding the exam are unknown. However, by 1920, the Department had revised its applicant examination to cover testing of a police officer's duties and responsibilities, including arrest procedures and the taking of evidence and circumstances in which the use of firearms was permissible. Although test results revealed inadequate education of most of its applicants, no minimum education attainment level was yet established to become a police officer. Throughout the next few years, several unsuccessful attempts were made to establish training programs.

In 1921 the Houston Police Department encountered many changes including:

- The City installed its first traffic signals; a traffic squad consisting of 22 officers manually operated them.
- The Department's manpower had grown to 171 personnel.
- The title of Chief of Police was changed to Superintendent of Police.
- The Police Burial Fund was established at a cost to the officer of 50¢ per month. The fund paid a $200 benefit, which was later raised to $500.
- City Civil Service rules pertaining to peace officers were upgraded.
- The population of the City had grown to 177,920

In 1925, health care benefits were given to city employees in the form of allowing them to go to Jeff Davis Hospital for medical attention without cost. Other important events from this year included the Department moving into its new building and increasing its manpower to 243 officers. Some of the more interesting crimes of the

period included vagrancy, lunacy, desertion, possession and sale of whiskey (Prohibition), registering as man and wife, suspicious characters and mooching.

On October 19, 1926, the Department opened its first substation, Magnolia Park. Its assigned officers were in close proximity to the ship channel and kept busy dealing with liquor violations. This was during Prohibition when all alcohol was illegal. In 1927, Magnolia Park officers seized and destroyed approximately 142 gallons of whiskey and more that 9,000 bottles of beer that first year.

The remainder of the 1920's was filled with several highlights and changes including:

- 1927 The Mounted Traffic Squad was established downtown.
- 1927 The Department organized its first police band.
- 1927 Automatic traffic control signals were installed.
- 1927 The first car radio was installed. The radio was tuned to KPRC, the only radio station in Houston. The announcer would interrupt the regular programming to broadcast police calls. Officers could receive the calls but could not transmit.
- 1928 The Department moved toward hiring women as matrons in lieu of female police officers. Matrons were responsible for young females and juvenile boys and girls.
- 1928 The city ordinance that forced officers to carry their firearm under their coat uniform where it could not be seen was repealed.
- 1929 The Houston Chronicle reported that the position of policewoman was abolished because Chief McPhail believed "a woman on the police force is unnecessary." The position of police matron was deemed more appropriate since it had no arrest powers. Chief McPhail believed policing was a man's job.
- 1929 Crime Statistics reported:
  - Burglaries 382
  - Murders 50
  - Robbery by Firearms 78
  - Robbery by Assault 62
  - Thefts 904
- 1929 The Department had a manpower level of 330 officers, 36 police automobiles and 23 motorcycles.

1930-1939

In 1930, the famous Touchy Furniture Store robbery occurred, precipitating departmental change. Several .38 caliber bullets, fired at the fleeing suspects, did not penetrate their vehicle. This tragic robbery resulted in the deaths of two officers. Consequently, the Department ordered new, more powerful .44 caliber Smith & Wesson revolvers.

The year 1930 proved to be active for HPD as recorded by these other events:

- The third substation, North Side was opened.
- The Homicide Division was created.
- The first in-service police school was created. It had various courses designed for both detectives and uniformed officers.
- Percy Heard was sworn in as Superintendent of Police.

- Two Thompson Machine Guns were purchased for the apprehension of "desperate criminals".
- 425 Special Officers (Reserves) were sworn in and appointed by the Mayor. They were under the call of the Superintendent in case of an emergency.
- The Department installed a "Shadow Box" where victims could view prisoners without being observed themselves.

In 1933, the Police and Fire Departments were briefly merged into the Department of Public Safety. George Woods, (the Mayor's campaign manager) was appointed as the new Director of Public Safety. The merger was short-lived however; it was during Director Woods' tenure that the first two-way radio transmissions took place via the newly established police radio station KGZB. The new system started the deployment of "scout cars" which were designed to create a feeling of safety and friendliness between the Department and the citizens.

In 1934, events began to improve for HPD even though it was still in the midst of the "Depression". The budget was increased to $560,000 and the number of officers had grown to 346. Also in 1934, Chief Paine instituted a weekly firearms inspection for his officers.

Many advances and critical events occurred during the 1930's including:

- 1935 The average response time was reduced from 5.8 to 3.81 minutes.
- 1935 The number of homicides decreased to 53.
- 1935 The City purchased 1,000 parking meters for downtown.
- 1936 The Missing Persons Division was established.
- 1936 The Federal Communication Commission named HPD as one of the first five police departments in the United States to be licensed.
- 1937 The Accident Division was created.
- 1937 Each officer was issued one police uniform per year.
- 1939 The total manpower was 444 officers.
- 1939 The monthly pay scale was:
  - Officer $150
  - Sergeant $170
  - Lieutenant $185
  - Captain $230
  - Chief $410

  Note: The pay scale for other ranks was not available.

Finally, in 1939, the Department established the first police academy class. The class was under the direction of Captain L.D. Morrison, Sr. and was five weeks in length. Classes were held at the Sam Houston Coliseum. A written intelligence test, created by W.A. Bernrider, was given to 597 applicants. One of the questions asked, "Why do you want to be a police officer?" This question is still used today in the Department. Only 362 passed the test with a grade of 70 or above. These men were screened and 76 were selected to attend the school. The first 50 cadets were selected to attend the class and the other 26 were put on a waiting list. They were given instruction in various phases of police work. The first class graduated on August 16, 1939, and was referred to as the Class of '39.

1940-1949

By 1940, the Department had grown to 466 officers and had a budget of $918,000. With the increased use of radios within the Department, several changes were made. A PBX operator was hired to handle police calls. The operator was to act as a filter and was to prevent undue delay in sending an officer to the scene of a call. Also in 1940, the Department started giving voluntary blood tests to determine the degree of intoxication of suspected drunken drivers.

In 1941, Neal Picket was elected as Mayor. Mayor Picket caused a controversy when he named Ray Ashworth as Chief of Police. The controversy stemmed from the fact that he was a former Chief of Police of San Antonio and some Council Members wanted someone from inside the Department. Chief Ashworth made some significant changes including: 1.) All officers could have one day off per week, 2.) All officers had to have a standardized nickel-plated badge with either a number or rank stamped on it, 3.) The purchase of 47 new police cars, which doubled the size of the existing fleet, 4.) Went to one-man units to cover more area and reduce crime, 5.) Required every member in the Department to be fingerprinted for the first time, which resulted in 15 officers being fired for having police records, and 6.) Created the Houston Civilian Auxiliary Police Division to be used in emergency situations. This was necessary since a number of officers were going into the military. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Chief Ashworth was inducted into the United States Army as a Major and placed in charge of the interment facilities.

In 1945, an event of major importance occurred with the formation of the Houston Police Officers Association (HPOA). There were many attempts to discourage membership during the first two years of its existence. Men organizing the group had to "slip around" and meetings were often secret. In 1947, Governor Buford Jester signed into law the Civil Service bill known as 1269-M. This legislation gave valuable protection to union members and was a significant victory for the officers of the Department. The Governor also signed a pension law, as well as a wage and hour act, lifting the Houston Police Department out of the spoil system.

Additional reform came when the HPOA was successful in getting legislation passed that formed an independent pension system for officers and removed them from the municipal pension system. This was followed by the passage of a 1948 state referendum that allowed aggrieved police officers immediate access to the courts, which in turn gave them protection from arbitrary demotion by unregulated political powers. Finally in 1949, Chief of Police Payne distributed an eight-page pamphlet with 150 rules and regulations governing officer's conduct and behavior.

1950-1959

In October 1950, a new City ordinance took effect that reduced the police officers' work week from 48 to 40 hours. It was also in that year that L.D. Morrison, Sr. became Chief of Police. Chief Morrison had not only gone up through the ranks of the police department; he was also a college professor. He taught sociology and criminology at the University of Houston and had special training at Northwestern University and the New York Police Academy.

In 1951, Chief Morrison announced a "booster squad," designed to strike at crime-infested areas of the City. It was reported during the first few months the squad was in existence that it was quite effective in "cleaning up" certain areas of town. It was also during 1951 that the Department received its first three-wheeled motorcycles to direct traffic and write tickets.

On August 17, 1952, the new $2,750,000 police administration and jail building at 61 Riesner Street was opened. After the ceremony, citizens were allowed to tour the new station.

In 1953 the monthly pay for police personnel was as follows:

- Officer $280
- Sergeant $305
- Detective $305
- Lieutenant $330
- Captain $360
- Inspector $480
- Night Chief $490
- Assistant Chief $530
- Chief of Police $834

In 1954, Roy Hofheinz was elected Mayor. Later that year he appointed HPD Sergeant Jack Heard, the son of former Chief Percy Heard, as Chief of Police. Chief Heard held a master's degree in public administration from the University of Houston and had attended Rice Institute as an undergraduate.

Under the direction of Chief Heard the Department grew in generous numbers. This was directly attributable to the fact that women were once again being hired to work for the police department. Women cadets were hired as dispatchers and jail matrons and to perform clerical duties. Officers were permitted for the first time to wear lightweight shirts, although they were still long-sleeved. The Department purchased 20 walkie-talkies for Narcotics, Vice and other "super-secret on-the-spot maneuvers". The Department obtained its first police chaplain during this time. The Chief proposed a departmental reorganization that would establish eight substations and would hire 800 additional officers. Although Chief Heard did not get all of what he proposed, he did lay a solid foundation that others would build upon later.

In 1956 Carl Shuptrine, who had a law degree, rose through the ranks to become Chief of Police. In 1957, Chief Shuptrine eliminated the downtown foot patrol and reassigned the 70 officers there to patrol cars. His primary objective was to "decentralize" the Department to effectively patrol the City's newly annexed areas. Houston at the time had grown to 352 square miles and some officers had to drive 20 miles just to get to their beats.

Chief Shuptrine stated, "The object of decentralizing is to give better service and to economize on police manpower." As part of Chief Shutrine's economy and efficiency strategy, he hired 17 civilian jailers to work in the City jail. His decentralization plan was accepted by City Council and in 1959 the City purchased two sites for future police substations. One of the sites was located at 4719 North Shepherd and the other was located at 7414 Park Place Boulevard.

1960-1969

In March 1960, Officer R.D. Whitcomb and his german shepherd became the first members of the newly established K-9 Corps to capture a suspect. Officer Whitcomb said his dog picked up the burglar's scent, followed him for four blocks and found the suspect hiding behind a chicken coop.

Some of the requirements for police trainee applicants during this timeframe were to be: (1) 21 years of age or older; (2) 5'8" to 6'5" tall; (3) A high school graduate or have passed an entrance examination given by the University of Houston; (4) In excellent physical condition with no history of asthma, hay fever, tuberculosis, or diabetes; and (5) Free from any physical defects or deformities. The applicants also had to live within a 150-mile radius of Houston.

Other significant events and highlights of the 1960's included:

- 1960 The Central Intelligence Division was created to track "hoodlums".
- 1962 Snap-on ties would be worn for safety reasons.
- 1962 National Peace Officers' Memorial Day (May 15th) was designated by Congress and signed into law by President John. F. Kennedy.
- 1964 Newly elected Mayor Louie Welch appointed Herman B. Short as Chief of Police. Chief Short holds the record as the longest serving Chief of Police with a tenure of 9 years and 10 months.
- 1965 The State of Texas established the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE).
- 1966 The Department had 1,337 officers, patrolled 446 square miles and the population of Houston had grown to 1,152,000.
- 1966 The Department's first bomb squad was established.
- 1967 Officers received a 22% pay raise spread out over a 3-year period.
- 1967 The Department formed the Community Relations Division.

Years of protests against the Vietnam War and racial inequity sometimes created violent situations for the police department to control. In May of 1967, rioting erupted at Texas Southern University. After much gunfire, the turbulence finally ceased. However, in the course of the riot, Police Officer Louis Kuba was killed and 488 students were arrested. Mayor Louie Welch then planned community relations training program for police officers in the aftermath of the Texas Southern University riot. He also appointed about 300 neighborhood aides from poverty areas to provide a communication link to City Hall. The community relations program was designed to bring together relatively small groups of police officers and minority leaders for discussions.

In 1968, the Department incorporated a hookup system between the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles in Austin for immediate vehicle registration verification purposes and established a direct link with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) in Washington, D.C. Another added feature was the teleprinter, which simultaneously typed an offense report as a new record was entered into the system.

By 1969 the Department had grown to 1,577 classified officers and 223 civilian personnel with a budget of $19,400,000. The entrance requirements were also modified during this timeframe including:

- Lowering the minimum weight requirement for males from 150 to 140 pounds.

- Visual requirements were also reduced to become more encompassing.
- The requirement that women applicants would not be eligible if they had pre-school age children was also changed. Women were now eligible if their children were one year of age or older.

In 1969, the monthly pay for police personnel was as follows:

- Officer (4 years) $725
- Sergeant $800
- Detective $800
- Lieutenant $875
- Captains $950

Note: The pay scale for other ranks was not available.

1970-1979

In January of 1970, the Helicopter Patrol Division was formed with three leased helicopters. This gave the Houston Police Department the largest helicopter patrol in the nation. In this year, the City Council also approved the purchase of the first bulletproof vests for the Department. Thirty vests were purchased at a cost of $157 each.

On July 10, 1970, the Houston Police Department and members of the Black Panthers clashed in the area of St. John's Baptist Church in the 2800 block of Dowling Street. Earlier, the Black Panthers had dared any HPD unit to drive on Dowling Street. Chief Short declared that the citizens of Houston, especially police officers, would not be denied access to any public street. This resulted in a gun battle where Black Panther leader Carl Hampton was killed.

Other significant events and highlights of the 1970's included:

- 1970 City Council approved the hiring of 30 civilians to replace police officers in clerical and telephone work.
- 1970 The first in-house videotape training for in-service was established.
- 1970 Officers were able to use scholarship funds from the 1969 Omnibus Crime Bill to attend colleges and universities.
- 1970 The number of officers who had a bachelors degree stood at 95.
- 1970 The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) established minimum appointment standards for applicants to become peace officers.
- 1972 Chief Short issued a written version of a long-standing verbal policy against officers accepting rewards.
- 1973 City Council approved time-and-a-half overtime pay for all City employees.
- 1975 The Department had 2,541 officers and 698 civilians.
- 1975 The monthly "retirement" pay for police personnel with 20 years of service base on 30% of their base salary was as follows:
  - Officer $339.60
  - Sergeant $384.94
  - Detective $384.94
  - Lieutenant $443.43
  - Captain $513.88
  - Deputy Chief $641.80

  Note: Each year of service past 20 years added two percent annually to the pension package.

- 1975 The number of radio channels was increased from 8 to 16. Each dispatcher had a computer CRT screen, which would access information regarding stolen vehicles and pick-ups for other divisions.
- 1975 The Department formed a Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) Squad.
- 1976 Officers were allowed to wear shortsleeve shirts for the first time and permitted uniformed officers to wear a mustache.
- 1977 The Department adopted the San Jose model to began an organized field training program.
- 1977 The Department announced that officers would begin to receive incentive pay for intermediate and advanced certificates issued by TCLEOSE.
- 1977 City Council agreed to purchase 500 portable two-way radios.
- 1977 The Department established an Internal Affairs Division whose first cases included the beating and drowning of Joe Campos Torres.
- 1977 As an outgrowth of the Torres case, the Department worked with Hispanic leaders including Dr. Guadalupe Quintanilla to develop closer community ties, which led to a Conversational Spanish class for Police Officers at Ripley House Community Center in the East end of Houston.
- 1977 Chief Caldwell reinitiated the issuance of nightsticks or batons as a defensive weapon.
- 1978 The Department hired a psychologist (Dr. Gregory Riede), to screen police applicants and to provide counseling services.
- 1979 The Department announced a new neighborhood crime program called "Houstonians on Watch". The program combined police patrol with citizen awareness and was designed to cover selected high crime areas.

One of the significant advances in 1979 occurred when the Houston Police Department became one of only five police departments in the country to have an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). AFIS was described as a computerized minutia-based fingerprint identification system, capable of storing approximately 375,000 criminal fingerprint records with descriptive information and an additional 12,000 unidentified latent fingerprints.

1980-1989

On September 2, 1980, another major advancement was achieved when the Houston Police Department implemented a new computerized application known as the "On-line Offense (OLO) Report System." The OLO system was considered the most extensive offense information-handling system in operation. Complete details of the offense were entered into the computer, beginning with the original call for service.

The new Houston Police Academy was opened at 17000 Aldine-Westfield Road in 1981. This was a state-of-the-art training facility with the capacity to train three cadet classes of 70 simultaneously, while also providing a large amount of space and other facilities to do various types in-service training, including two driving courses and an indoor firearms range. On May 10, 1982, the Houston Police Museum was officially opened to the public. The Museum was located at the Academy.

In 1982, Mayor Kathryn J. Whitmire, the first female Mayor of the City of Houston, selected Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner Lee P. Brown as the new Chief of Police. Lee P. Brown was the first black to be appointed Chief of Police and the first to hold a doctorate. Chief Brown implemented a community style of policing for the City of Houston. In Developing Neighborhood Oriented Policing, Chief Brown gave this definition of "Neighborhood Oriented Policing".

> "Neighborhood Oriented Policing is an interactive process between police officers assigned to specific beats and the citizens that either work or reside in these beats to mutually develop ways to identify problems and concerns and then to assess viable solutions by providing available resources from both the police department and the community to address the problems and/or concerns."

Under Chief Lee P. Brown the Department made several transformations, advances and accomplishments including:

- 1983 HPD mandated 40 hours of in-service training annually for officers.
- 1983 There were 3,465 officers of which 266 were female.
- 1983 The Positive Interaction Program (PIP) was established to involve citizens in fighting crime by establishing committees in selected areas.
- 1984 HPD planned to re-institute a mounted patrol downtown.
- 1984 The Park Police were transferred to the Houston Police Department.
- 1985 HPD hired the Department's only civilian Academy Director.
- 1985 Under state law; drug testing began for police applicants.
- 1986 The Academy classes were shut down for budgetary reasons.
- 1986 "For-cause" drug testing was started for both officers and civilians.
- 1987 Mayor Whitmire and Chief Brown formally dedicated the newly equipped Emergency Communication Center, which possessed a state-of-the-art $3.2 million Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The CAD system significantly reduced the time it took for a call to be routed through the dispatch office to police units.
- 1987 The first command station (Westside) was opened.
- 1988 The FBI reported that the past year was the first year since 1977 that Houston had less than 400 homicides, with 339.
- 1988 City Council restored the three percent pay raise revoked in 1985.

In 1988, Chief Brown made a major announcement that the Houston Police Department had become the 78th department in the nation and the largest to win accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The accreditation came after several members of the Commission conducted a public hearing and reviewed department policies, procedures, training and equipment.

1990-1999

In 1990, Mayor Whitmire was sworn in for another term. Approximately two weeks later, Chief Lee P. Brown left Houston to become the new Police Commissioner for the New York Police Department. On January 19, 1990, Mayor Whitmire announced her selection for Chief of Police was to be Deputy Chief Elizabeth "Betsy" Watson. Watson became the Department's first female Chief of Police. She had also been the first female captain and deputy chief.

Under Chief Watson the Department established the Personnel Concerns Program. This program gave direct attention to and provided remedial action for employees demonstrating behavior problems. Additionally, she received permission from City Council to abolish the deputy chief rank and to replace them with appointed assistant chiefs to flatten the Department's hierarchy.

Not all of the news was good for Chief Watson during her tenure. Due to the three years that the Police Academy was closed, the Department had lost 600 positions and the manpower level had now dropped below 4,000 officers. Against her wishes, City Council voted to remove the 60-college credit hour requirement for entrance into the Police Academy.

In March 1991, the Texas Supreme Court ruled on the long running lawsuit known as Lee v. City of Houston. The Court held that "if a particular job assignment requires no knowledge of police work in the Department, and entails no supervision of classified officers, the position need not be classified." But it held that the Act did prohibit non-classified employees from supervising classified employees.

Robert "Bob" Lanier was elected in November 1991 and sworn into office in January 1992. Mayor Lanier pledged to put the equivalent of 655 additional officers on the streets of Houston. After 47 days in office, Mayor Lanier announced he would replace Chief Watson with former HPD Deputy Chief Sam Nuchia, who was then serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Houston.

In 1992, Chief Nuchia stated he believed in a back-to-basics style of policing and that fighting crime ranked as his first priority. He said he would like to do away with one-man units and make as many two-man units as possible. Of the 655 officers added to patrol by Mayor Lanier, Nuchia placed 361 on patrol, 150 in investigative positions and 144 on special assignment. It was also in 1992 that the Airport Police Department and City Marshals were merged into the Houston Police Department.

Some noteworthy achievements and events that occurred during Chief Nuchia's tenure included:

- 1993 The Special Response Group (SRG) was formed and trained to handle large crowds and special events.
- 1993 The downtown pistol range was closed; it had first opened in 1933.
- 1994 Response time was lowered to 4.4 minutes from 6.1 minutes in 1991.
- 1994 New step pay increases were established for officers with 17 years in grade and sergeants and lieutenants with 3 and 8 years in grade respectively.
- 1995 The Women's Advisory Council was created to review concerns of female officers who, incidentally, comprised 11% of the police force.
- 1995 Officers with 20 or more years service were eligible for the new Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP).
- 1996 Planning for police services was undertaken with the beginning of the Kingwood annexation process.

In January 1997, Assistant Chief Clarence O. "Brad" Bradford was sworn in as the new Chief of Police for the City of Houston. Chief Bradford was a 17-year veteran of the Houston Police Department and was also a licensed attorney. Chief Bradford immediately began work on his commitment to "cultivate community relations and to suppress crime".

One of Chief Bradford's first priorities was accomplished in 1997 with the lifting of the promotional freeze on promotional ranks for sergeant and lieutenant. Judge Lynn Hughes granted a motion making it possible for the Police Department to fill vacant sergeant and lieutenant positions through promotions. However, the promotions were to be acting positions and would not accrue pension or seniority until the case known as the Edwards Lawsuit was settled.

It was also during 1997 that Governor George W. Bush signed into law the new "meet and confer" legislation for the Houston Police Department. The legislation provided for officers to vote for a representative organization to negotiate for them with the City administration on a compensation package that would be brought before City Council.

On December 11, 1997, the new 26-floor high-rise police headquarters located at 1200 Travis was dedicated. The Mayor, past chiefs of police, other dignitaries and guests were on hand for the opening ceremony. The move to 1200 Travis began in August and was completed by December. The new facility was equipped with the latest security system and would house 2,200 employees.

Lee P. Brown, the former Chief of Police, was elected as City Mayor in November of 1997 and took the oath of office in January 1998. He had become the second former head of the Police Department to become Mayor of Houston (I.C. Lord was the first in 1875). Mayor Brown sought to bring the community and city government together with his concept of "Neighborhood Oriented Government".

In November 1998, the "meet and confer" package was approved by City Council resulting in one of the largest pay raises for police officers in the history of the Houston Police Department. The contract provided for a basic annual pay structure for the Department's 5,200+ classified officers:

• Officer	(17+ years of service)	$41,268
• Sergeant	(17+ years of service)	$46,551
• Lieutenant	(17+ years of service)	$52,727
• Captain	(17+ years of service)	$60,385
• Assistant Chief	(8+ years in grade)	$81,607
• Executive Assistant Chief	(all)	$89,768

Note: The contract contained various other compensation benefits that are not reflected here.

In closing, the Houston Police Department, has always been a leader in law enforcement and that will never cease. The City of Houston continues to grow and the population is becoming more diverse in its ethnic and racial balance. Throughout time the one constant is "change" and it is with that knowledge that the Houston Police Department continues to evolve to meet the needs of the citizens it serves and protects.

1830 - 1859

Texas wins independence from Mexico to become the Republic of Texas (1836)

Augustus & John Allen founded the City of Houston named after General Sam Houston (1836)

The first Constable was elected in Houston (1837)

The first City Marshal was sworn into office to keep the peace and collect taxes (1841)

Very little patrolling took place in the City during the day. At night the only protection offered was by private guards hired by local businesses to protect their establishments.

1830 **1840** **1850** **1859**

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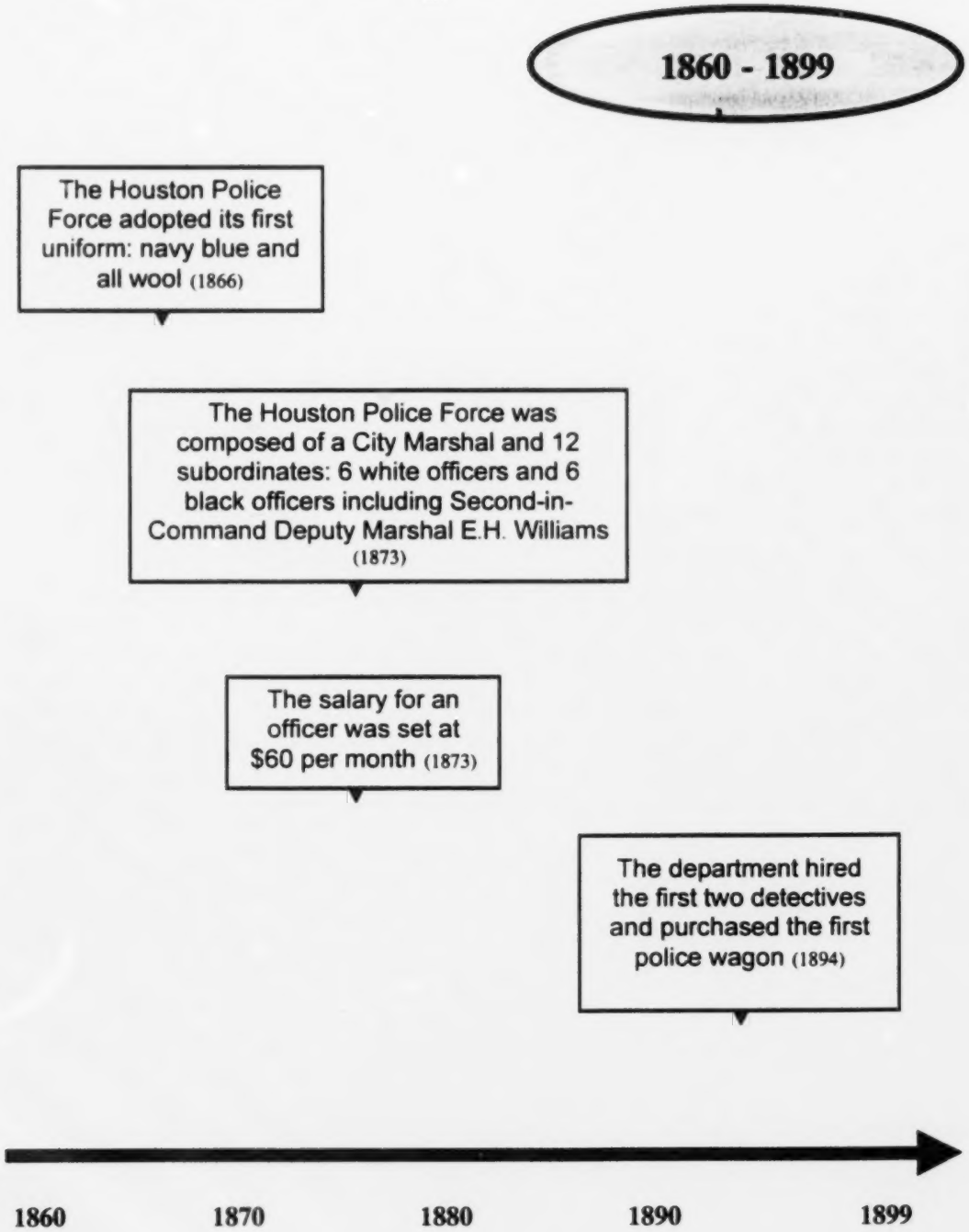
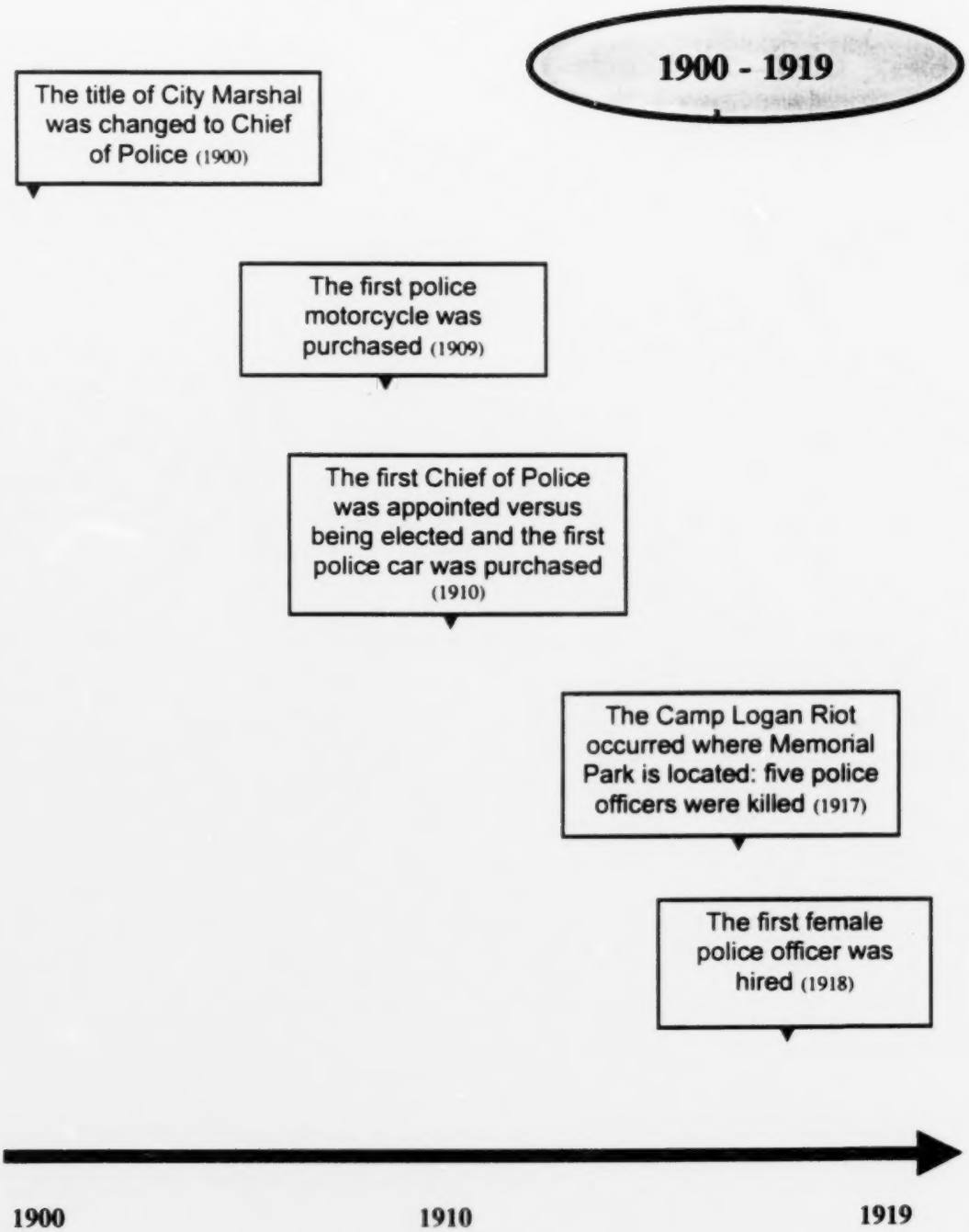
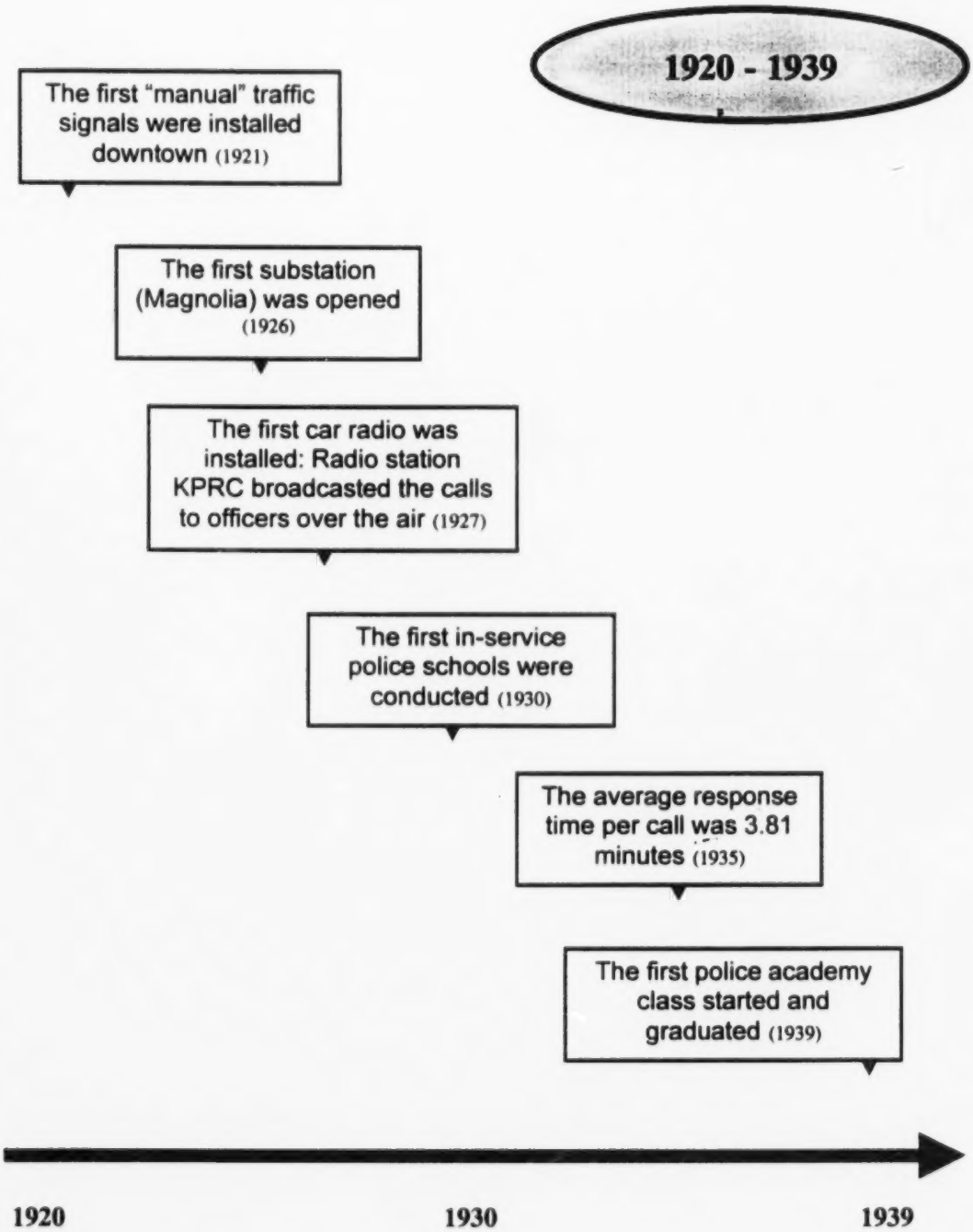

1860 - 1899
The Houston Police Force adopted its first uniform: navy blue and all wool (1866)
The Houston Police Force was composed of a City Marshal and 12 subordinates: 6 white officers and 6 black officers including Second-in-Command Deputy Marshal E.H. Williams (1873)
The salary for an officer was set at $60 per month (1873)
The department hired the first two detectives and purchased the first police wagon (1894)
1860
1870
1880
1890
1899


1900 - 1919
The title of City Marshal was changed to Chief of Police (1900)
The first police motorcycle was purchased (1909)
The first Chief of Police was appointed versus being elected and the first police car was purchased (1910)
The Camp Logan Riot occurred where Memorial Park is located: five police officers were killed (1917)
The first female police officer was hired (1918)
1900
1910
1919


1920 - 1939
The first "manual" traffic signals were installed downtown (1921)
The first substation (Magnolia) was opened (1926)
The first car radio was installed: Radio station KPRC broadcasted the calls to officers over the air (1927)
The first in-service police schools were conducted (1930)
The average response time per call was 3.81 minutes (1935)
The first police academy class started and graduated (1939)
1920
1930
1939

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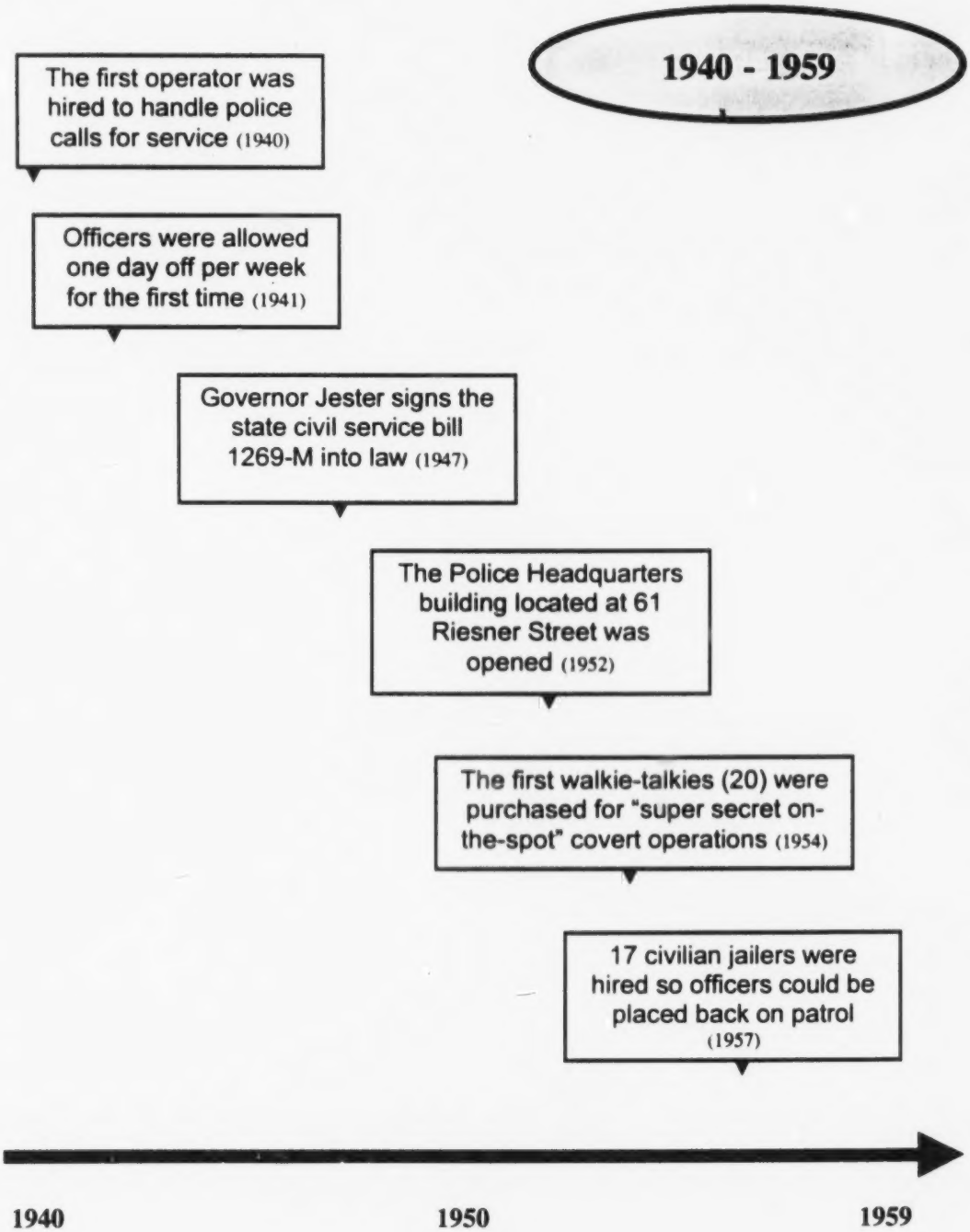
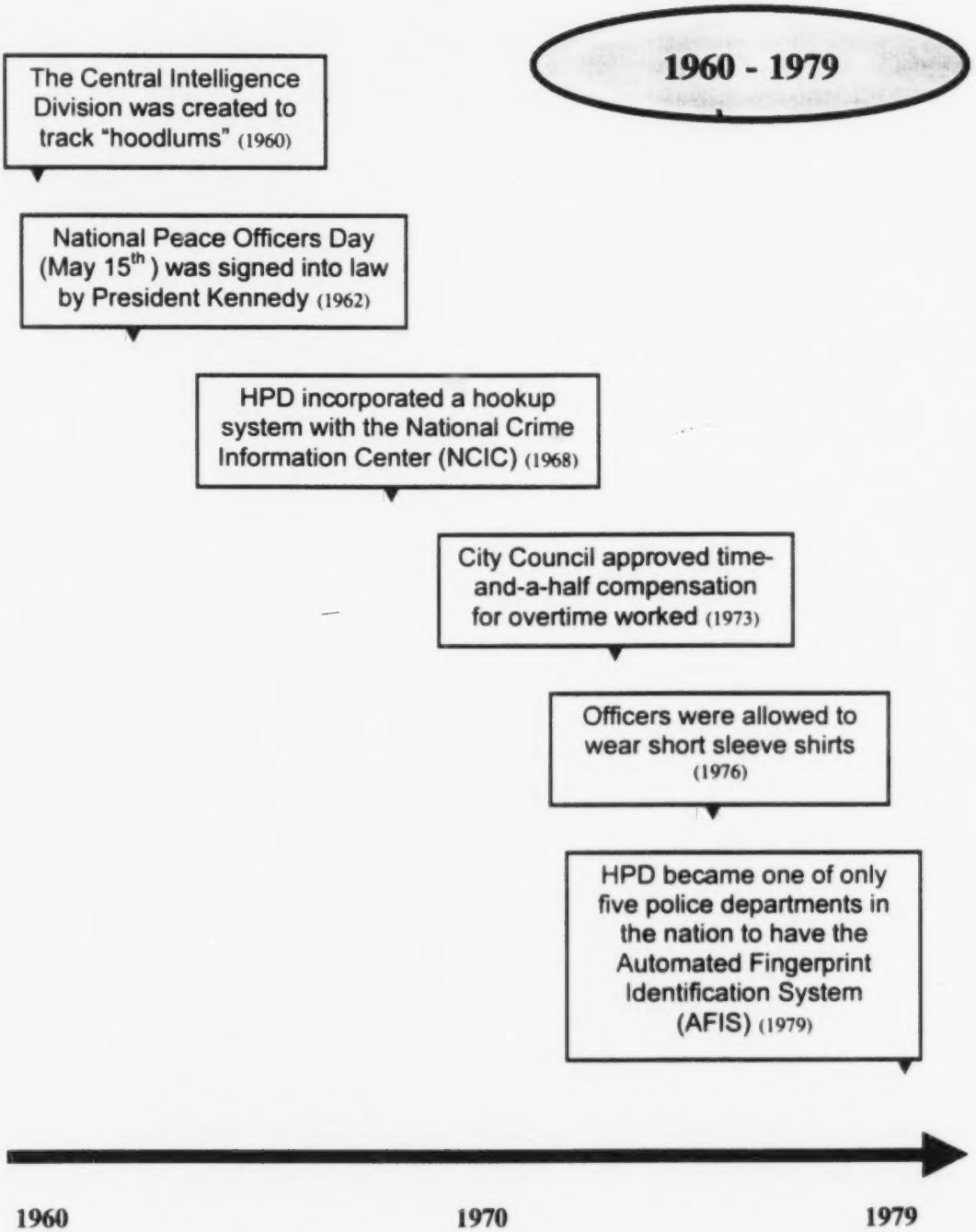

1940 - 1959
The first operator was hired to handle police calls for service (1940)
Officers were allowed one day off per week for the first time (1941)
Governor Jester signs the state civil service bill 1269-M into law (1947)
The Police Headquarters building located at 61 Riesner Street was opened (1952)
The first walkie-talkies (20) were purchased for "super secret on-the-spot" covert operations (1954)
17 civilian jailers were hired so officers could be placed back on patrol (1957)
1940
1950
1959


1960 - 1979
The Central Intelligence Division was created to track "hoodlums" (1960)
National Peace Officers Day (May 15th) was signed into law by President Kennedy (1962)
HPD incorporated a hookup system with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) (1968)
City Council approved time-and-a-half compensation for overtime worked (1973)
Officers were allowed to wear short sleeve shirts (1976)
HPD became one of only five police departments in the nation to have the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) (1979)
1960
1970
1979

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1980 - 1989

The On-line Offense (OLO) report system was implemented (1980)

The new Houston Police Academy facility was opened (1981)

Lee P. Brown was appointed as the first black Chief of Police in Houston and established a style of policing known as Neighborhood Oriented Policing (1982)

A state-of-the-art Emergency Communication Center equipped with a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system was dedicated (1987)

HPD became the largest police department in the U.S. to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (1988)

1980 **1985** **1989**

1990 - 1999

Elizabeth "Betsy" Watson was appointed as HPD's first female Chief of Police (1990)

Mayor "Bob" Robert Lanier pledged to put the equivalent of 655 officers on the streets and appointed Sam Nuchia as Chief of Police (1992)

The Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) was established (1995)

C.O. "Brad" Bradford was appointed Chief of Police and the Police Headquarters was moved to 1200 Travis (1997)

The first labor contract for classified personnel, known as "Meet and Confer" was approved by City Council (1998)

1990 1995 1999